

ASFO NEPA DOCUMENT ROUTING SHEET

Number: CX-AZ-110-2005-0061

Project Title: USGS Gaging Station Right-of-Way Amendment AZA-30645

Project Lead: Laurie Ford

Date that concurrent, electronic distribution for review was initiated: August 22, 2005

Deadline for receipt of responses: **September 6, 2005 RESPONSE TIME SHORTER TO MEET USGS FUNDING DEADLINE**

Required Reviews:

Gloria Benson, Native American Coordinator
Tom Folks, Recreation
Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Michael Herder, Wildlife
John Herron, Cultural
Lee Hughes, Plants
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price, S&G
Bob Sandberg, Range
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
Ron Wadsworth, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Relevant Manager(s), Becky Hammond, Field Manager

Discretionary Reviews: None

(insert any additional specialist names/titles recommended by Project Lead, Manager(s), and/or Environmental Coordinator)

Scoping Meeting: None

(if applicable, insert date, location, and names of people participating in any scoping meeting, and a summary of the outcome of this meeting)

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

CX-AZ-110-2005-0061

PROJECT TITLE: USGS Gaging Station Right-of-Way Amendment AZA-30645

PROJECT LEAD: Laurie Ford

PROPOSED ACTION: The USGS presently operates a stream gage on the Virgin River at the Narrows. In the past, they have made wading measurements at low to medium flows, but have only been able to determine higher flows by calculation of discharge from flood marks surveyed after the event. The USGS would like to install an unmanned, bank-operated cableway at the gage to make direct flow measurements during flood event, like that which occurred in January 2005.

Installation would be on the right bank, 225 feet south of mile marker 15 and 50 feet east of the edge of the road of I-15. The cableway would be about 300 feet upstream from the gage house, suspended about 25 feet above the channel bottom, spanning the stream channel where it is about 140 feet wide. Installation would consist of: Right Bank - form and pour one to two yards of concrete on and integrated into rock rip-rap. Embed six 3/4-inch by 10-inch anchor bolts into the concrete to hold reel pedestal. Where possible, dowel into existing boulders around the concrete. Left Bank - anchor a 15-inch by 15-inch by 1/2-inch steel plate to rock with 4 to 6 wedge anchors. Weld a short steel pedestal (4-inch by 4-inch square tube, 12 inches or less) to plate for a mount for return sheave. The cable spanning the channel would have a minimum of two large orange balls attached to it to warn anyone of the cable. Signs attached close enough to the water surface so rafters could see them may also be attached to the bridge upstream of the cableway.

The existing gage house is within the I-15 right-of-way and the proposed cableway would also be within the I-15 right-of-way. Installation of the cable way must be completed prior to September 30, 2005, when funds for the project would expire.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona
T. 41 N., R. 14 W.,
sec. 29, NE1/4SE1/4.
Containing 0.250 acre, more or less.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Arizona Strip District, Resource Management Plan, as amended. The proposed action **IS** in conformance with the RMP. Decision LR16 provides for the evaluation of land use authorizations on a case-by-case basis in accordance with RMP decisions and National Environmental Policy Act analysis.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action is categorically excluded under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4 E(12) which provides for grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Surname(s) verify completion of this review by appropriate specialists.

NAME	LIST OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA <i>Assign surnames for determination under each below</i>
<u>LFord</u>	1. The proposal would have no adverse effects on public health or safety: <i>Identify effect if any</i>
<u>TFolks</u>	2. The proposal would not adversely affect unique geographic characteristics such as park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks: <i>Identify the area that would be affected if any</i> <u><i>Installation of orange balls and signing would more than adequately serve to warn river floaters of the presence of the cable from a safety standpoint, the actual enjoyment of the river run (recreation experience opportunity) is what would be slightly affected. However, the project would not adversely affect any unique recreation opportunity.</i></u>
<u>JHerron</u>	3. The proposal would have no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources: <i>Identify effect if any</i>
<u>LFord</u>	4. The proposal would have no highly controversial environmental effects: <i>Identify the effect if any</i>
<u>LFord</u>	5. The proposal would have no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks: <i>Identify the effect if any</i>
<u>LFord</u>	6. The proposal would not establish a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration with potentially significant environmental effects: <i>Identify the effect if any</i>
<u>LFord</u>	7. The proposal is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects: <i>Identify the other actions and their effects if any</i>
<u>JHerron</u>	8. The proposal would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: <i>Identify the effect if any</i>
<u>LHughes</u>	9. The proposal would not adversely affect a plant species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species: <i>Identify the species and effect if any</i>
<u>MHerder</u>	10. The proposal would not adversely affect an animal species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species: <i>Identify the species and effect if any</i> <u><i>Implementation of the proposed action May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect endangered roundfin minnow or Virgin River chub, or their critical habitat, and the special status species Virgin spinedace, speckled dace, and desert and flannelmouth suckers. The proposed action would have No Affect on southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, or yellow-billed cuckoo as no habitat is available at the site for these species.</i></u>
<u>BSmith</u>	11. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) or Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands). <i>Identify the order and effect if any</i>
<u>MHerder</u>	12. The proposal would not require compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: <i>Identify the effect if any</i>
<u>GBenson</u>	13. The proposal does not threaten to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment: <i>Identify the law and effect if any</i>

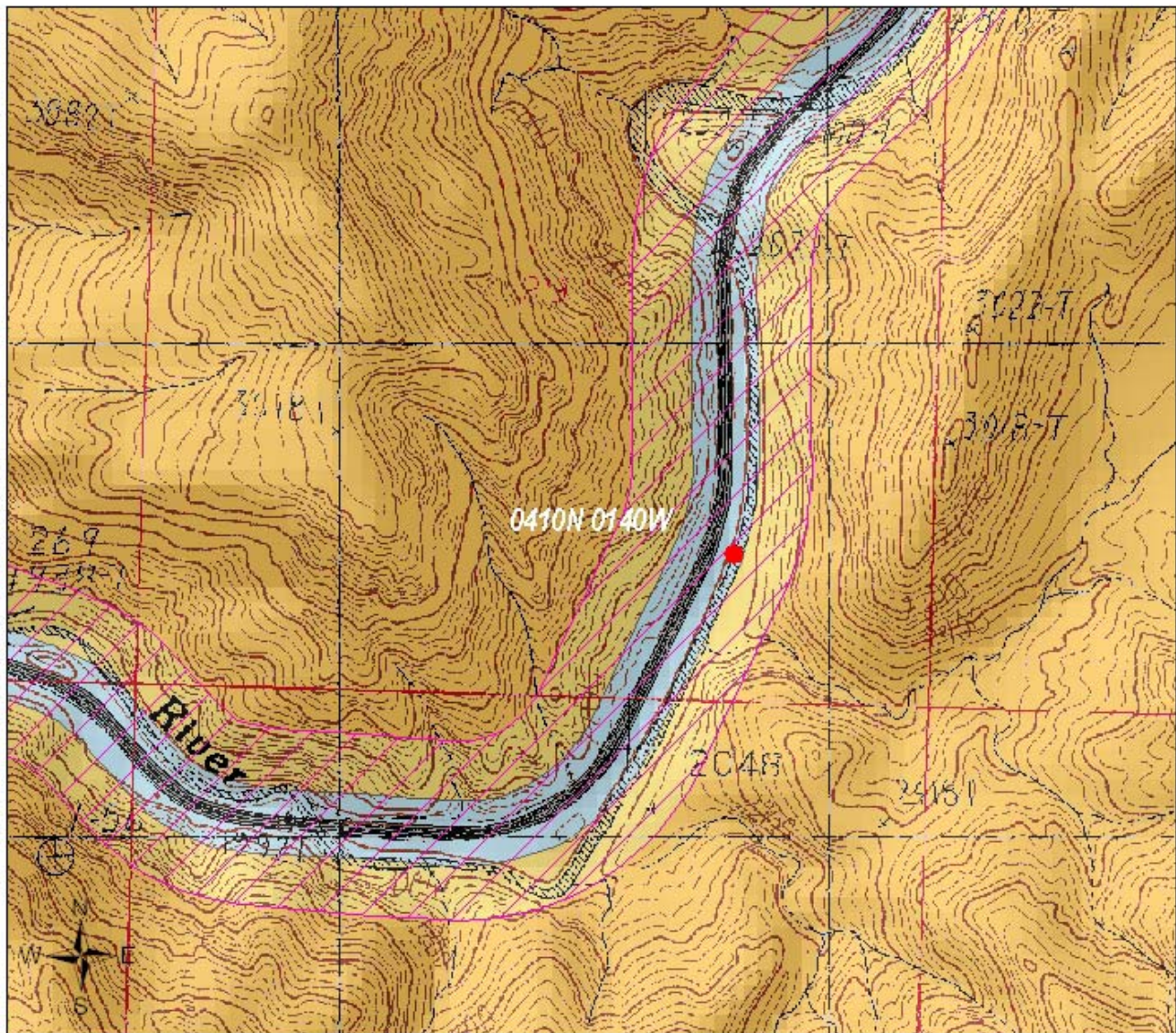
LFord 14. The proposal is in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, as amended.

DECISION: We have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the approved land use plan, that it would have no significant environmental effects, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Environmental Coordinator - Arizona Strip

IT IS MY DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL, AS DESCRIBED, ~~WITH THE STIPULATIONS IN THE ATTACHMENT.~~

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Field Manager - Arizona Strip



1:12,736

Legend

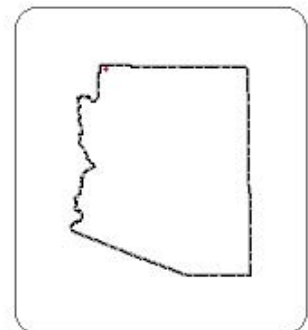
-  ACEC
-  Gaging Station
-  Interstate
-  BLM
-  I-15 ROW
-  BLM Wilderness

**USGS Gaging Station
Right-of-Way AZA-30645**
G&SRM, T. 41 N., R. 14 W., sec. 29, NESE.



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona Strip Field Office

Map created on August 15, 2005



CAUTION:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24,000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.